

they are dying of mistreatment, and it goes on every single day.

It is unfortunate that a celebrity trial will get significant coverage on the evening news; the suffering in places such as Darfur will not. We need to appeal to the conscience of this great and good Nation. Most Americans are appalled by what they see, but many Americans never get to see it because not enough attention is given.

We have included \$30 million for a new initiative to combat six debilitating diseases such as elephantiasis and intestinal parasites. These cause terrible afflictions for millions of people, many of them children. We never see these in our country because they are easily prevented. They can be cured with minuscule amounts of money, and they have been neglected for far too long.

Many of these diseases, especially in Africa, will cause people to be almost condemned to debilitating diseases, children to horrible parasites, and yet for sometimes pennies, at the most a few dollars, it can be prevented and their life, their hell on Earth, could be prevented.

We have included \$105 million for antimalaria programs. A portion of that will be used to fund the President's new malaria initiative, which I strongly support.

We provide another \$10 million for USAID's Amazon basin and conservation strategy, and we maintain funding for other programs protecting the environment. Again, I urge this money be spent to actually do it, that it actually go into the conservation strategy. We know it needs to be done. We do not need to enlarge bureaucracies in Washington. We need to be on the ground doing the work.

We include additional conditions on our assistance to Nepal on account of the Nepalese King's attempts to dismantle the fledgling democracy there. My key staff member on Foreign Operations, Tim Rieser, was recently in that country. We know the King's decision to dissolve the government, arrest political opponents, and restrict the press is making a solution to that conflict more elusive, isolating Nepal both politically and economically.

We include conditions on funding for the demobilization of foreign terrorist organizations in Colombia. The framework that was recently approved by the Colombian Congress falls far short of what is minimally required to dismantle these horrible terrorist organizations.

We restore the administration's proposed \$11 million cut in our contribution to UNICEF. This saves millions of children's lives. When this country speaks of helping others, why would we be cutting money out of UNICEF? It would have been unthinkable to go along with that cut.

There is a great deal more, and I again commend Senator McCONNELL for what I believe is one of the best foreign operations bills in recent years.

We are going to have a difficult conference with the other body, but if we get the conference budget allocations we need, we should end up with a good result.

I hope Senators who have amendments will make sure they belong on this bill; this is not an authorization bill, this is an appropriations bill—and bring the amendments as soon as they can.

Mr. President, the chairman has stepped off the floor for a moment. I am about to suggest the absence of a quorum, but not quite yet. I repeat, if there are Senators who have amendments, come forward with them. I will be very happy to go to third reading—let's see, it is 20 minutes of 11. I would certainly be willing to wait 5 or 10 minutes to see if anybody has an amendment. I will be glad to do that. I don't think either side requires a rollcall vote.

More seriously, Mr. President, America is the wealthiest, most powerful Nation on Earth. It is a nation with a great moral core. We saw that during the terrible tsunami in recent months, when we poured out aid from this country, not only our Government but even greater amounts from individuals. I know in my church and most people's churches, their synagogues, their mosques, there were collections for money to help aid the tsunami victims. Civic groups, other groups, the Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, and so many others raising money in the various service clubs—Lion's, Rotary, Kiwanis—it reflects the nature of Americans. We help our neighbors when they are in trouble. We help our neighbors even when they are on the other side of the globe.

So much of what goes on we don't see. We don't see the millions of children who die each year. We don't see the horrible percentage of paternal deaths. We don't see these debilitating and crippling diseases that could so easily be cured. We don't see the need to provide, such as Senator Dole and Senator McGovern proposed, a school lunch program in many poor parts of the world so not only boys but girls would go to school, too, and thus bring about a positive change in society over the years. We spend well under 1 percent of our budget on help. Frankly, I feel we should do more. I think the American people put forward our best face, and we can do even more.

As we eradicate disease, as we eradicate hunger, as we give people an opportunity to create their own businesses, sometimes a microenterprise, we are doing things with which most of the world will agree. In a time when we find so many in the world disagree with the United States—something I, as an American, find very disturbing—let's put forward this great face of America, a face I have known from my childhood on and all of us have known all our lives. Let's put forth this great reservoir of goodness and generosity of the American people. Let the rest of

the world see it. I guarantee, we will find a lot of other countries will step up and join us because this is something that should unite us and not divide us from the rest of the world.

Mr. President, I see the chairman is back on the floor. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my colleague from Vermont, it has been a pleasure working with him over the last, gosh, I guess it is 12 years now, either as chairman or ranking member—we have been here long enough to rotate a couple of times—on this measure. He has made an extraordinarily positive contribution every year.

We labored mightily to keep this bill as bipartisan as possible. The fact that last year we were able to clear it in about six hours indicates widespread satisfaction with the measure or we would have had a lot more action. We realize that is not likely to happen on a Friday morning, but we are intent on moving this matter to completion Monday or Tuesday morning at the latest. We hope everyone will cooperate. If anyone has a measure, if it is a good idea and warrants consideration, show it to Senator LEAHY and myself, and we might agree with you; in which case, we might be prepared to take the amendments. If not, we hope we will have what few votes we expect will be needed Tuesday morning, at the latest, and move on to final passage.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPREME COURT CONFIRMATION DEBATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, somewhere out there in our country